

# By Allah's name Ar- Rahman<sup>1</sup> Ar-Raheem (The multitudinous mercy Giver)

#### **Preface**

The praise is for Allah; and the prayer and the peace are upon Mohammad, son of Abduallah, who is a *mercy gifted* by Allah to all humanity! The Qur'an is Allah's *message(s) and* Mohammad's (SAWS) permanent miracle in fact miracles, in its facile but inimitable language! The Qur'an sums up the purpose of creation in a nutshell by saying:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ ٱلْإِنسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ﴿ وَمَا خَلَقْتُ ٱلْإِنسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ﴾ 51:56 (Solution and the humans except to worship [Me] 2"! (S51:56)

The above Ayah<sup>3</sup> (S51:56) by and large is self-explanatory! It is as clear as sunshine in a clear summer day. By this Ayah Allah (SWT)4 says that He created the Jinn and the humans for nothing else except to worship Him! Worshipping Him means: (1) acknowledging His existence; (2) submitting to (i.e. obeying) His Criteria of prescription and proscription, as embodied in The Our'an, Allah's true and unaltered Word, and the Hadeeth.<sup>5</sup> The Hadeeth and The Qur'an are as inseparable as a living body and its soul! Each complements the other, when The Qur'an generalizes the Hadeeth specifies, and the vice versa! Allah says: ﴿ وَمَا ءَاتَنكُمُ ٱلرَّسُولُ فَخُذُوهُ وَمَا نَهَنكُمْ عَنْهَ فَٱنتَهُواْ﴾

"And whatever the messenger gave youb so let-you take it; and whatever [he] forbade you<sup>b</sup> a'n (regarding) it<sup>x</sup> so let-you<sup>z</sup> cease (doing it)." (\$59:7)

It must be pointed out that it is paramountly important to know that Allah's worship is almost all for the worshippers' own benefit, as what is in it for Allah is their obedience to His command! Allah surely does *not* benefit from their *obedience*, *nor* is He *burt* by their disobedience! He did not need them before creating them, nor does He need them after

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ar-Rahman= "الرّحمن" The word "الرّحمن" is an exclusive proper name of Allah! It is also one of the most beautiful other attributive names of Allah. Various Qur'an-commentators have a lot to say about this proper name, the sum and essence of it all is as follows: as a proper name of Allah. The Ayah (S17:110) says: "Let-say [you\*]: you<sup>z</sup> call Allah or let-call you<sup>z</sup> Ar -Rahman, whomever that call you<sup>z</sup> so for Him (are) the names al-husna (themost-all-around-beautiful)!" Ar-Rahman indicates favor and help, clemency and generosity, goodwill and mercy to all Allah's creatures (including even the atheists) in this world. As a proper name Ar-Rahman is not translatable per sel However it is used when exhortation by admonition or reprimand are called for! Moreover, associated with and simultaneous to such exhortation is a reminder that Ar-Rahman implies hope, help, favor, and goodwill mercy towards the one or ones being exhorted by such admonition! On the other hand the word "Ar-Raheem"=""الرحيم" can be shared, as in the use to describe anyone who is "multitudinous mercy doer!" See the Lexicon attached to this Translation!

The letter "ن" in "يعبدون" by Arabic (linguistic) Rule, is called "نفنى عنه" = "نون الوقاية او العماد، حيث لا يُستَغنى عنه" "preventive ن," which when it precedes the speaker's pronoun "ي," the speaker's pronoun "ي" gets omitted as in إعراب القرآن، لمحمود صافي See ("Alleviation, lightening" or Ayat's end harmony (rhyme)! See "إلتخفيف" for "يعبدون"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ayah, The word, "Ayah," (plural Ayat), has four distinct meanings, three of which share with the others some common features of a marvel—i.e. of evoking great surprise, sustained admiration, and marked wonderment. The fourth meaning is the fact that eventually (in due course of time) the Ayat will empirically be shown to be true and correct, for each successive generation what it is appropriate to it! See the Lexicon attached to this Translation for a fuller explanation of this marvelous and meaning packed word

<sup>4 (</sup>SWT) = Subhanaho Wa Ta'ala! The word "subhana'" " has no English equivalent per se! Wherever this word occurs it is associated with a phenomenal work that Allah and Allah alone can do! Thus, we probably can render this idea by saying: we single Allah as excelling in all good qualities and that He transcends above all shortcomings and that He is unique and works uniquely! The "ho" is a pronoun referring to Allah and "Ta'ala," means He is constantly in an elevated status above and beyond anything imaginable!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Hadeeth is the tradition, or the verbatim statement of the Prophet and Messenger of Islam (SAWS), or his actions, or the statement or action of some one else that the Prophet did approve or did not disapprove.

creating them! He is *completely Self-Sufficient*; He is *The Besought by all*; He is exalted in *Loftiness* and *Majesty*! Allah *needs none*, but *all need* Him!

This translator witnessed and lived, both personally and vicariously, the most unfortunate and tumultuous consequences of the tragic and criminal events<sup>6</sup> of September 11, 2001 in the U.S.A. Having personally participated in various discussions of the aftermath of such events, and vicariously shared the many agonies and pains of those others who were engrossed and entrapped by those events, I became profoundly affected by such events and their consequences! The victims of those events are of different nationalities and various religious persuasions, including Muslims and Islam! I am emphatically convinced that all those victims had nothing to do with the presumed motives (good, bad or indifferent), of the perpetrators, regardless of the nature of those motives! The Qur'an clearly states that whoever kills a person, must not be for retaliation (i.e. retribution) except only after due process of Law by the established authorities; that unlawful killing is equivalent to murdering the entire human race! The Qur'an says:

"Verily it<sup>x7</sup> whoever [he] killed a self<sup>w</sup> by other than a self<sup>w</sup> or a corruption in the Earth<sup>w</sup> so as if [he] killed the mankind together; and whoever [he] quickened it<sup>w</sup> so as if [he] quickened the mankind together!"

(S5:32)

In another Ayah (Qura'nic statement), The Qur'an states in clear and unambiguous terms that every self<sup>w</sup> draws the meed (fitting recompense/requital) of its<sup>w</sup> own deeds, and none shall bear the burden of another.

﴿ وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ ﴾ 6:164 "And not ill-burdens a she-ill-burden-bearer another's ill-burden." (S6:164)

In our judgment The Qur'an is the basis of all cases, as it embodies and explains the entire creation: its origin, purpose and destiny, balanced cooperative living among the peoples in this world and salvation in the Hereafter! Sound rationality, scientific progress, and peace for all emphatically supported by The Qur'an and its purport, as depicted by the following:

# The genesis and bases for this *unique* English translation of The Qur'an The Supreme, as The *Qur'an is* the basis for all cases!

The criminal and unfortunate tragedy of 09/11/2001 alleged to be the work of some Muslims definitely violated, in letter and spirit, the teachings of The Qur'an! However,

<sup>7</sup> This "it<sup>x</sup>" is for the pronoun "\(\righta\)" in the "\(\righta\)" emphasizing the truth of the matter henceforth. In Arabic "truth" is a masculine gender, hence it is truth<sup>x</sup>!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> I am fully aware that there are some "Muslims" who unfortunately do applaud the occurrence of the events and their likes in varying degrees!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The word "وَزَرَّر" has dual meanings: (1) heavy burden, and (2) the heavy sin! Translated here as "ill-burden" as it is a burden which heavily burdens, unless properly handled! The "وزير"=vizier because he carries the heavy burden of the King to administer the affairs charged to him. And the vizier's responsibility is so enormous that if he makes a mistake, intended or not, it could be fatal to him and others! Thus, I chose to further qualify "burden" by the word "ill" as such qualification really and truly best approximate the seriousness of such a burden in reference! See

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> In fact The Qur'an contains *myriads* of example after example to prove this case, but even contrary to this fact, if there were no other proofs but the great *Ayah* at the beginning of this *Preface*, it would have been sufficient!

clearly it is not proven beyond reasonable doubt that such horrible and hideous acts are the work of true and good Muslims! Such acts are completely antithetical to Islam and its humane, rational, and simply put divine teachings! However, the majority, and certainly not all, of the American media is biased, overflowing with assertions and presumptions that some named Muslims were responsible, when in fact perhaps they were victimized and "framed" as the culprits by the arch architects of such a tragedy! Time will surely tell! The American media is owned and operated by vast vested interests, interests that tirelessly claim to be objective, but, by and large, it is far from that! That is why in the rest of the world, especially the Muslim world and particularly the Arab world, the stories are quite different! There are myriads of irrefutable and irreconcilable facts that contradict and invalidate the American media allegations! We sure hope that sooner than later the facts about this criminal tragedy of 09/11/2001 will be proven, exposing the real perpetrators, for Allah's sake, for the truth and for history so that all will reach the correct conclusions and assign this hideous crime to its real perpetrators!

# 2. The currently in use English translations of The Qur'an are *very inaccurate*, myriadly giving the *opposite* messages/meanings of what The Qur'an says!

One year later, it was *necessary* for me to return to the U.S.A. Again personally and vicariously I had to experience the *consequences* of those events of 9/11. Normally, whenever I travel, I carry with me my personal copy of The Qur'an, in addition to a copy of its English "translation," *assuming that such translation was good!* This time, after having left my home country, and for unknown reason to me, I found myself with a copy of *only* the English<sup>11</sup> "translation" of The Qur'an! It was sufficient for my *werdo*, *i.e. daily regular reading of a portion of The Qur'an*! Since I had to accomplish my *werda*<sup>12</sup> from this English translation, which contains the Arabic text, I could not help but glance, every now and then, at some translated passages! This experience certainly *startled* me and *alarmed* my mind! On second thought, it was *saddening* in some aspects and *embarrassing* in most others! The translation was *very inaccurate*! Time and again it *states* what The Qur'an does *not* say; also it *omits* what The Qur'an does say, or even worst, as it states the *exact opposite* of what The Qur'an says! Simply stated: the translation was *not acceptable*! It *unintentionally* violates *the integrity of the Qur'anic text*!

# 3. Apologizing for the shortcomings of the current translations of The Qur'an!

Currently in the U.S.A. and the Western World Islam and The Qur'an are almost daily topics of discussion! In the course of my discussions of Islam and The Qur'an, it was *inevitable* for me to *point out* the *unintentional shortcomings* in the various English *translations* of The Qur'an and to *apologize* for such an *anomaly*, to put it lightly!

My wife suggested that I should try to translate The Qur'an myself! I was receptive, as that is exactly what I was thinking of doing anyway! But the task is *absolutely monumental* and of *mammoth consequences*, to say the least! But there was no escape from it!

# 4. *Hadeeth* must be conveyed *verbatim*, so The Qur'an deserves the *same*, if not *preciser*, treatment!

There is a famous Hadeeth (tradition/the verbatim statement of the Prophet and Messenger of Islam/his actions/the statement or action of some one else which the Prophet did approve or did not disapprove) stated at the beginning of the Introduction of this work, that urges us all to convey, transmit, or translate all Hadeeths verbatim. I have noticed that the various

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Here is not the proper venue to enumerate such facts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> I always carried this copy assuming (admittedly without verifying) that it is the best English translation!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The word "werdo" or "werda" are exactly the same except for their grammatical place in Arabic!

English translators of The Qur'an overwhelmingly are not Arabs, <sup>13</sup> a fact that instantaneously drove me to think that they did not have sufficient appreciation of the exact meaning the Arabic words of The Qur'an and their imports by way of implications, connotations, and denotations in addition to what they impart explicitly! On second thought, I retorted by thinking that those were noted scholars who were sincere and bent on doing the best possible to achieve their discourse. May Allah reward them for their works, whatever it is! Given their penchant and sincerity why is it that their work of translation of The Qur'an is inadequate and flawed, i.e. very imprecise, to put it very mildly! As to the small minority of Arab translators of The Qur'an, I cannot find any good justification for them except an inexcusable "follower-ship," i.e. they allowed themselves to fall "preys/victims" to it! That is they found an existing "pattern" and they simply followed it, only adding their idiosyncratic marks<sup>14</sup>! Thereby they allowed themselves to fall into a trap! That is a trap of ease, as "follower-ship" is a lot easier than diligence, innovation or origination, where they have to cope with the exacting and highly precise language of The Qur'an, which contains no synonyms, in its descriptions and conveyance of situations, messages and concepts!

### 5. Allah willing, all Qur'an translators are winners!

However, Allah willing, all Qur'an translators are winners for their efforts, doubly when right and singly when not so right, as so stated in the Hadeeth! But, the fact remains that those *modern* scholars who had "translated" The Qur'an to English, for one reason or another, unfortunately suffered from or were prone to various significant shortcomings and flaws! In my judgment all that is clearly *emanating* from the fact that they, for one reason or another, all were not loyal to the integrity of the translated text! I say this, because in all those "translations" there is hardly a sentence of two words or more which reflects the actual text of The Qur'an! Here is why! The Qur'an uses a precision language in its diction<sup>15</sup>. This language is embodied in the most amazing choice of words and their seeming synonyms, when in fact there are no synonyms in The Qur'an! Similarly, the verb-usage format: present, past, passive, active, transitive, intransitive or their respective intensifications all are very telling! Of course, the same thing applies as well to the intensifications of adjectives, adverbs, objective/subjective nouns, and prepositions! Those translators take no heed of such facts, and so they do *not* reflect such facts in their "translations"! And to make the situation even worst interpolation, extrapolations, and even personal interpretation (which may not be right) of The Qur'anic text stands, for the innocent or the unwary reader of such translations, as if it were the Our'anic text itself! Consequently, the reader finds utter

If am fully cognizant of the fact that during the "golden era" of the Islamic Civilization, roughly corresponding to the "Dark Ages" of modern Europe, as there was no globally known America to speak of at that time, the contributions of the non-Arabs were and continue to be salient and rather remarkable. To this day and forever, such monumental contributions in all disciplines, including the exacting ones, like grammar and mathematics, are illustriously distinguishable. However, ancient Arabs as well as those that had contemporized the Prophet (SAWS) all spoke correct Arabic (grammatically and otherwise) by instinct! The non-Arabs deeply studied how to speak correct Arabic. They had discovered and so had established certain "laws" and "rules" of discipline and had philosophized the proper pronunciations and syntaxes. Thus, they were truly outstanding, far better than most of present day Arabs!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> As a Muslim I am fully aware of the *Hadeeth* which urges Muslims to try to find an "excuse" or a "justification" for any shortcoming by others, especially other Muslims, but the enormity of the case (as we are dealing with the word of Allah and conveying it to the best of our abilities) I honestly tried but still could not come up with an acceptable "excuse" or "justification!"

<sup>15</sup> That does *not* mean we cannot translate The Qur'an *textually* as what the Arabic proverbs says: "What cannot be achieved in *its full*, it's not to be missed in *its most*!"

confusion as there is total lack of heed to the aforesaid facts! Obviously, no one who sets himself for a great and a noble task (of translating The Qur'an) would do so with less than his best! But once intentionally or not one falls into a "trap," if not a "folly," of ignoring the verbatim of The Qur'an, it is difficult to get extricated from it! May Allah forgive and amply reward those translators for their efforts, as they did what they did (I think) with the best of intention and sincerest of efforts<sup>16</sup>! They stated that their intention is translating the "meanings" of The Qur'an! Yes, The Qur'an has multitudes and multitudes of meanings, but their "translations" were not translations, by any stretch of the imagination, of those multitudes of meanings or even a single one of such meanings! It is simply not possible! Because The Qur'an conveys multitudes and multitudes of meanings that are cumulative and ever-increasing as time and science progress! Their "translations" are at best, reflections of their personal understanding/interpretation of the text of The Qur'an at the time they were undertaking their task! Clearly their personal understanding/interpretation of the text of The Qur'an is flawed and inaccurate time and again! May Allah forgive them and reward them bounteously for doing their utmost of efforts!

### 6. Suspending my work and devoting my efforts for translating The Qur'an!

As a result of the aforementioned, I came to the conclusion that if we are to be very careful, painstaking and loyal to the integrity of the text with respect to the Hadeeth, of course The Qur'an is more deserving of a preciser treatment

Therefore, I decided to suspend my works<sup>17</sup>at hand, and switch for translating The Qur'an, hopefully, Allah willing, achieving better/preciser English translation of The Qur'an. Translation that, En-Sha-Allah, will adhere to the integrity of the text of The Qur'an, be most careful regarding the unique meanings of each word, each phrase and its syntax, each prepositional letter and its unique meaning as used in The Qur'an! By success from Allah, my determination for accuracy, and adherence to the integrity of the text, I hope a closer to the letter and spirit of the text of The Qur'an will be achieved, and thus an accurate translation of The Qur'an will be gained! Hence, I am proceeding, by Allah's leave, speed, and my unconditional resolve to absolutely minimize (if not totally eliminate) all currently existing inaccuracies and unintended misrepresentations, due to faulty translations, interpolations or extrapolations regarding translation of The Qur'an! Thus, forthwith I seek Allah's Assistance in my endeavor to aright-guide me and enable me to make the best/precisest choice for the most correct and the best possible English translation of The Qur'an. I pray for Allah to accept my work, bless it by His Grace and favor it forever, Amen.

## 7. Need for transliteration and superscribed words!

To begin, I should mention that the Arabic language is brief and laconic, especially with respect to The Qur'an and the Hadeeth! In such regards it is very precise and elaborative, connotative, denotative, and designative! It has a plethoric (encyclopedic) supply of words unmatchable in any other language! Hence, transliteration (with parenthetical explanation) is inevitable! Also, implicit and explicit pronouns for the singular, the double, and more than double, in the masculine or the feminine formats, all play significant roles! Arabic language

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> This prayer of mine for those translators is my way of finding an "excuse" or "justification" for them!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Thanks to Allah, by now, I have finished, except for the *final* reading of the last few chapters, the third and last volume of my book, *The Future World Order*. I was planning to proceed with my next two books, *Human Rights, Especially Women's Rights, In Islam*, and *The spread Of Islam By The Sword, A False Concept.* 

is particular about the addressee in terms of feminine or the masculine! So the anticipation of all difficulties involved as well as the actual translation of all other translations, I had endeavored and had formulated and reformulated a table of superscripted words, to designate, distinguish and fulfill various needs, such as: you s= "أَنْتُ", you f= "أَنْتُ", you y= "أَنْتُ", for singular feminine, you y m= "أَنْتُ", or plural feminine, etc. Such a table is shown separately and a must to know for reading any part of my translation of The Qur'an The Supreme.

## 8. Four main categories of this work

Besides this *Preface*, there is an *Introduction* to this work, covering some important remarks about certain facts with respect to the *uniqueness* of the Arabic language, its great multitudes of *words* that are vis-à-vis The Qur'an *not* synonymous! Also its *prepositional letters* (i.e. as used in The Qur'an) and their uniqueness, precision, and specificity all are explained generally or specifically! And finally there is a *Lexicon* attached to this translation covering some special words with specific meanings and elaborated explanation as used in The Qur'an.

In my work I relied, for English references, on the *Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary* and the American Heritage Dictionary. Also various Arabic references are listed separately.

We seek Allah's Assistance and blessing to reach everyone *participating* in this endeavor, Amen.

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